

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CG

SUBJECT: BRITISH CONTRUCTION FIRM HALTS WORK IN ZAIRE

1. OCTOBER 20 BRITISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE MARTIN TOLD
EMBOFF THAT BRITISH FIRM WIMPYS HALTED WORK INDEFINITELY
OCT 18. WIMPYS HAS SUBCONTRACT FROM GUEST, KEEN AND
NETTLEFORD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT AIRFIELDS IN ZAIRE
FINANCED BY 50 MILLION POUND STERLING LOAN FROM BRITISH
MERCHANT BANKS. THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO WITH-
DRAW APPROXIMATELY 100 EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES IN ZAIRE.
REASON FOR WORK STOPPAGE IS THAT APPROXIMATELY TWO
MONTHS AGO GOZ AGENCY REGIE DES VOIES AERIENNES UNI-
LATERALLY CANCELLED CONTRACT OF BRITISH QUALITY CONTROL
ENGINEERS, STATING THAT THEY WOULD DO THIS WORK. REGIE
DES VOIES AERIENNES HAS REFUSED BRITISH FIRM ACCESS TO
CONSTRUCTION SITES. WITHOUT CERTIFICATION BY BRITISH
QUALITY CONTROL FIRM, BRITISH MERCHANT BANKS HAVE
REFUSED TO MAKE PAYMENTS DUE TO CONTRACTORS.

2. GOZ IS DELINQUENT IN ITS PAYMENTS DUE TO MERCHANT
BANKS AND HAS CITED DISPUTE OVER CONTRACT WITH QUALITY
CONTROL ENGINEERS AS REASON FOR REFUSAL TO MAKE PAYMENTS
DUE. MARTIN STATED THAT AS USUAL IN ZAIRE THERE IS CON-
SIDERABLE SPECULATION AS TO REAL MOTIVE OF GOZ. HE NOTED
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THAT WORK ON AIRFIELDS IS APPROXIMATELY HALF COMPLETE

AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROBLEM UNTIL REGIE DES
VOIES AERIENNES UNILATERALLY CANCELLED CONSULTING FIRM
CONTRACT WITHOUT WARNING. SPECULATION IS THAT THIS IS
MERELY PRETEXT TO AVOID MAKING PAYMENTS DUE, WHICH GOZ
IS FINANCIALLY UNABLE TO MAKE.

3. COMMENT: CIS EMPLOYEES ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF WORK
STOPPAGE BY WIMPY AND ARE ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR OUTCOME
OF DISPUTE AS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OF CIS ARE WIDELY
KNOWN.

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